Surrender of International funds for AIDS

213. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whther Government have surrendered international funds received for controlling AIDS; and

(b) the reasons for not fully utilising the fund?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The full credit of US $ 84 million could not fully utilised at places by the project closing date i.e. 30-9-97 on account of the slow utilisation of funds by States/UTs due to procedural difficulties. The project closing date has now been extended up to 31-3-1999.

Shortage of Blood in the Country

214. SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there will be a shortage of blood by the end of this year on account of a judgment passed by the Supreme Court last year that all professional blood banks will have to be closed down by December;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to avoid such an eventuality;

(c) whether Government are considering to open atleast one Government approved blood bank in every district in the country with uniform charges; and

(d) if so, the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) There is overall shortage of blood in the country. The Supreme Court judgement dated 4th January, 1996 directs the Government to take steps to discourage the prevalent system of professional donors, so that professional blood donation is completely eliminated within a period of not more than two years.

(b) As per statement attached (*See below*).

(c) and (d) opening new blood banks is the responsibility of the State Governments. However, the Central Government has provided cash and commodity assistance for upgrading 815 blood banks in different States/Union Territories.

Efforts have, therefore, been directed towards rationalisation of the demand of blood by promoting the use of blood components instead of whole blood wherever possible.

Statement

I. Promotion of Voluntary Blood Donation

For generating blood through voluntary blood donation programme, Government of India have taken a number of steps as follows:

1. A campaign has been launched for motivating people for donating blood voluntarily through specially developed TV spots telecast through Doordarshan at suitable intervals during prime time.
2. Messages are broadcast on voluntary blood donation through Times FM channel in one of their music programmes.
3. National AIDS Control Organisation with the help of Central Health Education Bureau have developed prototype Information Education and Communication material for one to one communication on Voluntary Blood Donation Programme in the form of folders, posters and stickers and the same have been given to various states and UTs for use and reproduction in local languages.
4. National Council for Science and Technology Communication (Department of Science and Technology, Government of India) have initiated a pilot project for generating voluntary blood donation in 50 selected cities, with a view to fill up the gap between demand and availability of blood through voluntary donations.

The specific objectives of the project being.

(a) To address existing myths, misinformation and inhibitions regarding blood donation from the minds of people through awareness campaigns;